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September 22, 2003

Jim Luce, Chair
Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council
PO Box 43172
Olympia, WA 98504-3172

Dear Mr. Luce,

Thank you for your recent presentation to the Senate Natural Resources, Energy, and Water Committee. The update on EFSEC's recent activities was very helpful.

We do have some continuing concern related to the development of a greenhouse gas emission rule. While we appreciate the direction EFSEC is taking related to streamlining permit processing and providing certainty for permit applicants, the issue of carbon dioxide mitigation is troubling.

The beginning point in this discussion has to be statutory authority to require such mitigation. It is a fact that carbon dioxide mitigation has been a requirement of several permits; however, it should not be the main reason for continuing the practice. At the present time, there is no state or federal mandate or authorization to proceed with such mitigation requirements. It is also clear that the Environmental Protection Agency does not intend to pursue this issue.

Further, the debate within the scientific community is still raging over whether or not we are experiencing global climate change and if greenhouse gas emissions contribute to any such climate change.

With these facts in mind, we strongly urge EFSEC to stop its actions related to greenhouse gas regulation and mitigation until the legislature directs the Council to do otherwise.

Cordially yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob", written over the typed name.

BOB MORTON
State Senator